

from Northampton to Greenfield, and we need to do the right thing.

#### NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some of the stories of Alabamians who are being negatively affected by the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Over the last several weeks, thousands of health insurance policy holders in Alabama have received notice that their plans have been canceled or altered, and their costs have risen, some quite dramatically. This, despite President Obama's often-repeated and unmistakable promise to the contrary. He promised of the Affordable Care Act:

If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period. If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan. Period. No one will take it away, no matter what.

Mr. Speaker, we now know this wasn't true. To make matters worse, the disastrous rollout of the ObamaCare Web site has made it nearly impossible for those affected to search for alternatives. The President didn't tell the truth, and the Americans who took him at his word are paying the price.

I recently reached out to Alabamians, asking those who have experienced health care plan cancellations or rate increases because of ObamaCare to tell me their stories. The response has been overwhelming; and, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share just a few of those stories here in the House this morning.

Allyson Strickland, a wife and a homeschooling mother of four from Dothan writes:

We are a family of six with one income, and our premiums doubled from \$420 to \$940 a month. We are already under great financial strain, and this is not helping relieve any of the tension. At this point we are unsure about what we are going to do. With four growing children, we know insurance is vital, but at what cost to the daily needs of our family? We are very disappointed in the Obama administration.

Shaun Cunningham of Montgomery writes:

I am a married father of two beautiful little girls. My jaw dropped when I found out my family's premium was going from \$400 a month to \$722. I called BlueCross first thing Monday morning, but I was told I needed to contact healthcare.gov for assistance. After 6 hours on the phone with them trying to apply for a subsidy, I did manage to find out that there was a cheaper premium. I could choose the Blue Saver Bronze at a rate of \$545 per month, which was still an increase over the plan I liked. The other problem? My individual deductible would be \$6,350 and my family deductible would be \$12,700. I fail to see anything "affordable" about this.

Chris Vuccovich of Montgomery:

Was notified that my policy was not ACA compliant. Paying \$390 for family coverage, just found out comparable plan, "Silver,"

would be \$704, my out-of-pocket went up, so did deductibles and copays. We make too much money and will not qualify for, nor do I want, a subsidy.

Leigh Hayes Wiatt of Montgomery:

Our premium went up to \$1,374 a month.

Angela Zacchini of Greenville:

Our family of four is paying \$417 a month, and it is going to \$765 a month.

Jim Harrell of Prattville:

My doctor retired and told me that he was not going to deal with the changes in the Affordable Care Act. So I could not keep my doctor. Both of my adult daughters got letters indicating their policies were canceled due to not meeting all the requirements of the new law. New policies being issued will be about 33 percent more expensive. One has a specialist doctor who is now going to charge patients a costly fee up front each year, and then pay for services rendered. All of these effects are negative to my family.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals and families are not statistics. They are real people from Alabama's Second Congressional District whose lives are being made more difficult because of ObamaCare.

I don't know why the President repeatedly misled the country about the true implications of this health care law. This is the kind of Washington doublespeak, political doublespeak, people are so fed up with; and this time it is hurting people in a very real way.

We have an opportunity here in the House this week to make it right by acting to protect Americans from these rate hikes and plan cancellations. So that is why I am a cosponsor of Keep Your Health Plan Act, which will allow health care plans currently being offered to continue next year, just like the President promised.

□ 1030

This bill also ensures that Americans choosing to maintain their health care plans will not face a tax penalty under ObamaCare.

I appreciate the leadership of Chairman FRED UPTON of Michigan in bringing forth this legislation. The Keep Your Health Plan Act won't fix every problem with ObamaCare, but it will offer real changes and peace of mind to Americans affected by these changes.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't a partisan issue. Republicans and Democrats alike recognize the basic unfairness that has occurred here. So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Keep Your Health Plan Act.

#### AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, for millions of Americans, the dream of access to affordable health care is becoming a reality, thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

In New Jersey, 2.2 million people have already gained access to free preventative care. Premiums will be 20 percent lower in 2014. Seniors on Medi-

care already received a 50 percent savings on prescription drugs, and more than 70,000 young adults in New Jersey are able to see a doctor because they can stay on their parents' insurance.

Sadly, though, out of purely selfish political motivation, my Republican colleagues are obsessed with making this law fail and are working overtime to take away the benefits millions of people are already enjoying. I challenge my Republican colleagues to channel that same energy into making the law work so that millions can get the lifesaving care that they deserve.

Look around your districts. How many of your constituents could benefit from access to lifesaving health care, to free cancer screenings and reduced prescription drug costs? They don't need a 47th, 48th, or 49th vote to repeal the law. They need the affordable, quality care that the ACA provides. And they are counting on their leaders to make it work, not to work against them to make it fail.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. TOM KIM AND THE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tennessean who has helped thousands of people in need across my district. Dr. Tom Kim came to America after escaping North Korea at the age of 6. Through a strong Christian upbringing and faith in God, he was led to a lifelong devotion of helping others.

Many years ago, I had lunch with Dr. Kim, and he shared with me his wish to open a clinic that provides free health care to the working poor in my district. The clinic would operate with a mission based on the Bible verse Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me." From that vision came The Free Medical Clinic of America, which this year celebrated its 20th anniversary and 11,000th new patient. What started as a small clinic alongside Dr. Kim's own practice in Knoxville has grown to facilities in four other counties.

Most recently, the FBI office in Knoxville gave Dr. Kim the Director's Community Leadership Award. This yearly honor is given to citizens who go above and beyond in service to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tom Kim is one of the most selfless and kindest men I have ever known and is a man who possesses a contagious energy to help others. I wanted to bring his devotion to others to the attention of my colleagues. I hope The Free Medical Clinic of America continues to be an example of humanity and Christian service for many years to come.

While I came here primarily to honor a health care hero, I also want to make a few additional comments about health care.